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Kerala Plywood Company, Kozhikode

* 235 *Q.*—SRI K. P. GOPALAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the Additional Commissioner for Workmen's Compensation, Madras, has given an award in 1954 directing the management of Kerala Plywood Company, Limited, Kallai, Kozhikode, Malabar, to pay Rs. 8,861-11-5 to 41 workers in the said company;

(*b*) if so, whether the management have paid the amount to the workers; and

(*c*) if not the action taken by the Government in the matter?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : (*a*) The Additional Commissioner for Workmen's Compensation awarded a sum of Rs. 7,717-14-9 as against Rs. 8,861-11-5 claimed by the workers.

(*b*) No, Sir.

(*c*) The District Magistrate, Kozhikode, was asked to recover the amount under Section 15 (5) of the Payment of Wages Act. It was not however possible to recover the amount as the Company was not working and as the movable property of the Company had already been attached and sold under Revenue Recovery Act for the realization of income-tax arrears.

SRI K. P. GOPALAN : May I know from the Hon. Minister whether the Collector of Malabar has made detailed enquiries about the assets of the company and reported to Government that at least a portion of the award could be implemented so that the workers could be benefited? Would the Government also see whether the workers are enabled to get some benefit out of this? In this connexion may I also bring to the notice of the Government that the Collector of Malabar, now-a-days when the question of implementation of an award comes up before him, in many cases used to report to Government that the company was not in a position to pay the amount mentioned in the award. If there be such cases, will the Government be pleased to take steps to make detailed enquiries about the assets of the company and see that the workers get their due share according to the terms of the award?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : The hon. Member may put a separate question.

Hospitals and Dispensaries without doctors

* 236 *Q.*—SRI N. K. PALANISAMY : Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state the number of hospitals and dispensaries that are without doctors during the year 1956?

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THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY : Three institutions were without doctors. The vacancies have since been filled up.

SRI N. K. PALANISAMY : May I ask whether the Government would amend the rules so that in future before awarding degrees to the medical students, they would be made compulsorily to serve in rural hospitals for a period of at least two years?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY : Several of them do go to the rural areas but some are unwilling. No rules are necessary on the subject.

SRI T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR : Are the Government aware of the fact that it is not due to want of service spirit on the part of the Doctors that they are not willing to go to rural parts. On the other hand the local boards conducting these rural dispensaries are not in a position to pay them decent salaries, adequate pay or even a living wage. Therefore will the Government see that the doctors practising in rural parts are paid adequately?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY : Yes, Sir, there is a proposal to provincialize the rural dispensaries. It will take some time.

SRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN : Will Government make necessary rules or amend the existing rules and make it compulsory on the part of these doctors to serve in rural dispensaries since many dispensaries run by local bodies and district boards are closed for want of qualified doctors?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY : If doctors posted to rural areas do not choose to go there, their services will be terminated.

SRI S. DAIVASIGAMONEY : The Hon. Minister was pleased to say that two hospitals were without doctors. May I know for what length of time these hospitals were without doctors and what were the arrangements made for medical treatment of the people living round about those dispensaries during that period?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY : I cannot say offhand for what period these hospitals were remaining closed. From time to time here and there, certain hospitals are closed because doctors do not go there in time.

SRI V. BALAKRISHNAN : How is this scarcity of doctors in our country consistent with the policy of the Government in permitting recruitment of doctors to go to Malaya and Singapore?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY : Doctors who undergo training at enormous expense should be at liberty to serve wherever they like.

SRI B. VAIKUNTA BALIGA : Will the Government be pleased to state whether these hospitals at least had the service of honorary

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medical officers attached to them. If not will the Government consider the question of appointing honorary medical officers to every one of these dispensaries or wherever possible

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY : Wherever there is necessity, honorary men are appointed. But there are many places where the services of honorary men cannot be secured in spite of repeated advertisements.

SRI V. K. PALANISWAMI GOUNDER : Apart from the rural dispensaries, there are ' pucca ' dispensaries run by the district boards. The scale of pay of doctors in these institutions run by the local boards is far below the scale of pay of doctors in Government institutions. That is why the doctors are not going to local board dispensaries. Will the Government see that the pay of the Local Fund cadre of doctors are raised to the level of the Government doctors?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY : There are differences in the scales of pay between people employed by the Central Government and the State Government. So also there are differences in the scales of pay for men in the service of the State and local boards. These differences cannot be straightway removed. It is a matter of finance.

SRI P. SELVARAJ : We hear now and then that rural dispensaries are not getting doctors. If that is so, will the Government come forward to force the medical students who are studying under scholarship to go to rural dispensaries and serve there for two years? 9-10 a.m.

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY : I do not think that it is either fair or just to impose that condition to people who seek medical education.

SRI V. K. PALANISWAMI GOUNDER : The Hon. Minister is pleased to state just now that there is difference of pay in all categories. The scale of pay of doctors under Local Bodies and the Government are very much different. The scale of pay in the Local Bodies is Rs. 85 whereas in the Government the scale of pay is Rs. 200. So, will the Government see that this disparity in the scale of pay is reduced?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY : Most of the Local Fund institutions at Taluk Headquarters have been provincialized. As I said, the Second Five-Year Plan provides for provincialization of rural dispensaries also. In course of time, the Government will take over such institutions and give better scales of pay to doctors employed at these medical institutions.

SRI B. K. NALLASWAMI : Is it not a fact that medical practitioners are discouraged to go to the rural parts just because even adequate supply of medicines and chemicals are not given to them due to the Government Order restricting the supply of such medicines and chemicals by Local Boards

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THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY : There is too much of unnecessary medication. I think it is better sometimes to have less medicines.

SRI K. PARTHASARATHY : Recently the Government prohibited the employment of 'B' class practitioners in rural dispensaries and as a consequence many dispensaries are without doctors. In view of the fact that many dispensaries are closed for want of doctors, will the Government consider the desirability of relaxing the rule at least for a short period? Also, will the Government consider the desirability of training doctors for a short duration as an emergency measure for some time to come?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY : 'B' class practitioners who have not been trained in any institution recognized by the Government are not now allowed to be posted to rural dispensaries. It is better to have qualified practitioners for these dispensaries. I would rather have no dispensary if properly qualified practitioners are not available.

Construction of the Kariankot bridge

* 237 Q.—SRI M. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state with reference to the answer given to question No. 433 on 17th December 1954—

(a) the amount so far spent on the construction of the Kariankot bridge at Nileshwar in South Kanara district; and

(b) why the work has not yet been completed?

THE HON. SRI R. SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI : (a) Rs. 3,61,300.

(b) Owing to some difficulties in regard to the foundations, the work could not be completed as programmed. But of the 16 wells for the bridge foundation, 12 have been succesfully sunk and plugged. Two more wells are being sunk. Two remain to be sunk.

SRI M. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR : What is the estimated cost of the work and whether the estimate has been increased, and if so the total estimated cost. Also, when is the work expected to be completed?

THE HON. SRI R. SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI : The original estimated cost is Rs. 6,34,000. There is no question of any revision or otherwise.

Wireless station in M.S.P. Camp at Malappuram

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : Sir, both question Nos. 238 and 239 may be taken up together as they relate to the same subject.

MR. SPEAKER : Yes, they may be taken up together.